

Washington, D.C. - Today the House passed H.Res.455, introduced by Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08), which recognizes June 2007 as National Internet Safety Month.

“Over 35 million students have access to the internet and use it everyday to expand their knowledge beyond what they can learn in textbooks and in the classroom,” Bean said. “In addition, the internet allows kids to stay connected with their friends when not at school.”

“The internet has increased productivity and opened a world of opportunities to our children, but while doing so, it has created a world of dangers,” Bean continued. “These threats whether it be unwanted online solicitations, internet scams or cyber-bullying are dangerous and real.”

As noted in Bean’s resolution:

- 41 percent of middle and high school students do not tell their parents about their internet communications.
- 61 percent of students admit to using the internet unsafely or inappropriately.
- And, of most concern, 20 percent of middle school and high school students have met with someone they first met online.

“In order to protect our children from online dangers, we must work together to raise awareness of internet dangers and safety tips, and this resolution is an important step in what must be a national, coordinated effort.”

“I applaud the House for supporting H.Res.455, and I encourage my colleagues as well as parents, teachers and kids to use National Internet Safety Month as an opportunity to utilize the efforts of our local, state and federal government; non-profit organizations; and concerned corporate citizens to promote internet safety.”

In recent studies conducted by the Department of Justice, 1 in 7 children between the age of 10 and 17 received a sexual solicitation online. And 1 in 25 (or one per classroom) receives an aggressive sexual solicitation when a predator calls them on the phone, sends them gifts or requests a meeting.

In addition to today’s resolution, Bean has introduced legislation to implement a national public awareness campaign to inform parents, kids and teachers about ways to stay safe online. Bean has also hosted multiple internet safety forums for parents and students in her district over the past 2 ½ years.

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